



## **FACT SHEET**

### **Automatic Switch Company**

### **Aiken, South Carolina**

#### **1. Public Meeting**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control ("Department") will hold a public meeting to discuss the Automatic Switch Company ("ASCO") Site located at 1561 Columbia Highway in Aiken, SC (see attached figure). During the meeting, Department staff will provide details on the upcoming environmental investigation and provide an opportunity for citizens to ask any questions or express their concerns.

The public meeting will be held:

Tuesday, October 14, 2003  
6:30 P.M.  
USC-Aiken  
Conference Center Room 122  
Business and Education Building

If you are unable to attend the meeting and have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Jeff Thompson, Project Manager, at (803) 896-4129, or Mr. Jim Bowman, Project Hydrogeologist, at (803) 896-4029.

#### **2. Site History**

The facility was constructed in 1964 by Therm-O-Disc Inc., which manufactured temperature control and monitoring devices for consumer appliances. ASCO has operated the facility since 1988. ASCO manufactures solenoid valves and pressure switches for use in automobiles, process equipment, and appliances. Both companies are subsidiaries of Emerson Electric Company ("Emerson").

#### **3. Actions to Date**

In 1987, Emerson removed from the site nine (9) underground storage tanks that stored 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA) and perchloroethylene (PCE). These compounds were used as degreasers and solvents in the manufacturing process.

As part of the tank removal, Emerson collected soil samples around the TCA and PCE tanks to determine if any contamination was present in surrounding soil. Samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Analytical results showed that soil around the tanks containing PCE should be removed; subsequently, 370 cubic yards of soil was removed in August 1995.

ASCO is a subsidiary of Emerson Electric Co., which is conducting an environmental assessment to find the source, nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination at the site. Emerson will conduct the investigation with DHEC oversight.

DHEC will hold a public meeting to provide details on the upcoming environmental investigation and provide an opportunity for citizens to ask any questions or express their concerns.

Emerson installed six groundwater monitoring wells in 2001 to monitor groundwater quality on-site. PCE has been detected in two of these wells. PCE, TCA, and 1,1-dichloroethylene (1,1-DCE), a breakdown product of PCE and TCA, have been detected in off-site private wells

downgradient of the site. A connection between the contamination on-site and in the private wells has not been established to date.

#### **4. Planned Investigation**

Emerson, as a responsible party, entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Contract with the Department on January 27, 2003, to determine the source, nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination at the site. Emerson will conduct the investigation with oversight provided by the Department.

Soil and groundwater at the site will be sampled at multiple depths and locations to determine the nature and extent of contamination present. Based on the findings, the Department will then decide on the level of off-site investigation needed to delineate the extent of contamination.

#### **Contact Information:**

Jeff Thompson, Project Manager  
State Remediation Section  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Phone: (803) 896-4129  
Fax: (803) 896-4292  
E-mail: [thompsjs@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:thompsjs@dhec.sc.gov)

Jim Bowman, Project Hydrogeologist  
Superfund Hydrogeology Section  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Phone: (803) 896-4029  
Fax: (803) 896-4292  
E-mail: [bowmanja@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:bowmanja@dhec.sc.gov)